

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
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NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
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JCS:MMALOOLEY

OSD:RWEEKLEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065586

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS, ROUND

SEVEN: SCHEDULE

REF: GENEVA 3814

STATE CW MESSAGE 18

1. WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE TWO ALTERNATIVE SCHEDULES FOR
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THE REMAINDER OF ROUND SEVEN (REFTEL) AND COULD ACCEPT
EITHER ONE. HOWEVER, WE SEE MERIT TO THE EARLIER (29
MARCH) DATE.

2. AS SUGGESTED REFTEL, TWO PLENARIES COULD BE HELD
(MARCH 29 AND 31) BEFORE AMBASSADOR FISHER LEAVES TO ATTEND
THE SSOD PREPCOM. IN HIS ABSENCE THE CW NEGOTIATIONS

WOULD CONTINUE MAINLY IN THE DRAFTING GROUP. AFTER THE PREPCOM, AMBASSADOR FISHER WOULD RETURN TO GENEVA. WE WOULD EXPECT ROUND TO END ON OR ABOUT MAY 5 AFTER SEVERAL PLENARIES TO WRAP UP DRAFTING GROUP DISCUSSIONS. (AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, WE WISH TO KEEP OPEN OPTION OF SLIGHTLY LATER END DATE IF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE.)

3. WE BELIEVE THIS APPROACH HAS A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ADVANTAGES. IT WILL ALLOW MORE TIME FOR DISCUSSION AND AND EXPLORATION OF POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES AND FOR RESOLVING OUTSTANDING ISSUES BEFORE THE LONG BREAK WHICH THE MAY 23-JUNE 28 SSOD WILL IMPOSE. IF SOVIETS ARE PREPARED TO RESUME FULL SCALE NEGOTIATIONS, WE WOULD AVOID AWKWARD SITUATION IN WHICH US APPEARED LESS INTERESTED IN ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS THAN DID SOVIETS.

4. UNDER SECOND ALTERNATIVE SUGGESTED REFTEL (RESUMPTION APRIL 24), ROUND WOULD CONTINUE FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS. THIS WOULD PERMIT APPROXIMATELY SIX PLENARY MEETINGS AND AN EQUAL NUMBER OF DRAFTING GROUP SESSIONS. THIS ALTERNATIVE WOULD ALLOW MORE TIME IN CAPITALS FOR PREPARATION AND WOULD MEAN THAT US DEL HEAD COULD BE PRESENT FOR ENTIRE PERIOD. BASED ON PAST SOVIET REACTIONS, THEY MAY PREFER SCHEDULE WHICH ALLOWS DRAFTING GROUP DISCUSSIONS TO BE CONFIRMED QUICKLY AT MORE AUTHORITATIVE LEVEL IN PLENARY SESSIONS.

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5. WE RECOGNIZE THAT ONCE CCD SCHEDULE FOR THIS PERIOD IS ESTABLISHED THAT THIS WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR AS WELL. DELEGATION AUTHORIZED TO PRESENT BOTH ALTERNATIVES FOR CW SCHEDULE TO SOVIETS AND SEEK THEIR REACTION. IF SOVIETS INDICATE A PREFERENCE FOR ONE ALTERNATIVE OR THE OTHER, YOU SHOULD AGREE TO ACCEPT THEIR PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE. IF SOVIETS HAVE NO PREFERENCE, YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT DATE PREVIOUSLY AGREED ON TENTATIVE BASIS (MARCH 29) BE ADOPTED.

6. IN VIEW OF SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE MARCH 29, WE WOULD HOPE AGREEMENT ON DATE CAN BE REACHED BY MARCH 18TH.
VANCE

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